

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Yugoslav-sponsored Bulgarian Refugee Society has almost completely been abandoned by the Yugoslavs as an instrument for dealing with the Bulgarian refugees in the country. Of the approximately 700 Bulgarian refugees now in the country, about 85 per cent are peasants and members of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, or in sympathy with it. Ten per cent are former right-wing elements or monarchists and the remaining five per cent had affiliations with other political groups in Bulgaria.
2. Because of its strength and organization, the Agrarian Party is the main object of the Yugoslav propaganda campaign to win Bulgarian sympathies. Since the Bulgarian Refugee Society was a failure as a front organization, the Yugoslavs have recently been attempting, in a half-hearted manner, to divide the Agrarian organization. To this end they have attempted to use as agents provocateurs the monarchists, Maxim Petrov and Nicola Vesilev, sending them to the camps where the Agrarians are concentrated, to try to turn one leader against another. Most of this activity has taken place in the Jesenice camp, which is now being used as a headquarters for Agrarians who intend to escape to the West.
3. In general, however, the Yugoslavs seem to have given up their attempt to organize the Bulgarians into a group which would support Yugoslav policies and no longer take much interest in them. In early January 1951, 60 Bulgarians, who were employed in the cooperatives of the Bratstvo and Dnistvo area, in spite of orders to the contrary from the Yugoslav officials, boarded a train together and made their way to Jesenice and no effort was made to stop them by force.
4. This laissez-faire attitude on the part of the Yugoslav officials is particularly annoying to the Bulgarian officers in the Bulgarian Refugee Society. They see in this the weakening of their own positions and in an attempt to retaliate, are continually denouncing the Bulgarian refugees for minor infractions of the law, thus hoping to force them into a more cooperative mood. Officials of the

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Refugee Society were particularly dissatisfied in December 1951 when the Yugoslav Government distributed 10,000 dinars (sic) worth of shoes and clothing to all refugees in the country but did not use the Refugee Society as an instrument to distribute the gifts to the Bulgarians.



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